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SMALL AIRCRAFT SKIDS OFF RUNWAY AT MUMBAI AIRPORT AMID RAINS

A small private aircraft crash-landed, veered off the runway and broke into two at the Mumbai airport on Thursday amid torrential rains

EIGHT PASSENGERS INCLUDING CREW INJURED

The Learjet 45 aircraft VT-DBL belonging to VSR Ventures, was coming from Vizag. It had six passengers on board — Dhruv Kotak, Arul Sal, K K Krishnadas, Aakarsh Shethi, Kamakshi and Danish national Lars Sorensen. The crew members were Capt Sunil and Neil. Dhruv Kotak is the MD of Mumbai-based JM Baxi Ports & Logistics. Sal is his executive assistant

RUNWAY SHUT BRIEFLY, THEN REOPENED

- Following the accident a little past 5 pm, both runways at the airport were shut for over one-and-a-half hours. Around 6.47 pm, the runway where the plane skidded off, resumed operations, an official said
- All eight on board were hospitalised. VSR Ventures is known for providing chartered planes to business professionals

700

METRES WAS THE VISIBILITY AT THE TIME OF THE INCIDENT

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TRICHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

NO SHOW

I.N.D.I.A bloc blacklists 14 television news anchors

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

A day after announcing that the I.N.D.I.A bloc will boycott a section of TV journalists, the parties on Thursday released a negative list of 14 news anchors. It comprises usual suspects like Republic TV's Arnab Goswami, News18 Amish Devgan, Times Now's Navika Kumar, India Today Group's Gaurav Sawant, Shiv Aroor and Sudhir Chaudhary.

The decision to abstain from programmers or shows hosted by certain anchors was taken during the first meeting of the coordination committee on Wednesday. "The panel also authorised the sub-committee on media to decide upon the names of television news anchors on whose shows none of the INDIA parties will send their representatives," said AICC general secretary K C Venugopal after the meeting.

"Pursuant to the decision taken by I.N.D.I.A Coordination Committee in its meeting on September 13, 2023, the I.N.D.I.A parties will not send their representatives on the shows and events of the following anchors," said a statement from the media committee of the opposition bloc.

Taking to X, Pawan Khera, a member of the working group for media of the I.N.D.I.A alliance, said that the parties did not want to become a part of the hate filled narrative propagated by some TV channels. "We will not be part of the market of hate on some channels every day from 5 pm onwards. Our aim is to free the country from hatred," he said

"We are not opposed to any of the anchors," said the Congress leader, adding the decision was taken with a heavy heart. It was learnt that at Wednesday's meeting, the Congress and the AAP suggested a list of anchors whose shows should be boycotted.

I.N.D.I.A grp's bid to destroy Sanatana: PM

Accuses Oppn of attempting to erase faith, push the country into 1,000 years of slavery

ANURAAG SINGH @ Bhopal

LAUNCHING a scathing attack on the Opposition I.N.D.I.A bloc over the recent anti-Sanatana Dharma remarks by DMK leaders, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday urged people to be wary of those who want to destroy their religion and culture.

This was Modi first public intervention in the raging debate on Sanatana Dharma ever since DMK leader Udhayanidhi Stalin likened it to dengue and malaria, adding it had to be eradicated. Terming the Opposition's alliance as a *Ghamandiya Gathbandhan* (proud alliance), Modi said, "While on the one hand our country is emerging as *vishwa mitra* (global friend) and showing the strength to integrated the entire world, on the other hand some political parties are engaged in disintegrating the country and its society."

Prime Minister Narendra Modi waves to the crowd in Bina on Thursday | PTI

The Opposition alliance, he alleged, intends to destroy the hoary culture and traditions that integrated the country for thousands of years. Modi was addressing a public meeting after laying the foundation for industrial projects worth around ₹51,000 crore in Bina town of poll-bound Madhya Pradesh's Sagar district.

"The Sanatana inspired Devi Ahilya Bai Holkar, queen of Jhansi Laxmi Bai, Mahatma Gandhi, Lokmanya Tilak and Swami Vivekananda. Now the *Ghamandiya* alliance wants to eradicate the same Sanatana... and push the country back into slavery of thousand years again," Modi alleged.

Earlier, Modi rode an open jeep with Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on board to greet the people at the venue.

In its pushback, the Congress accused the PM of using an occasion of a government function to insult the Opposition. "The PM is back to doing what he does best—insult. He repeated his abuse of I.N.D.I.A parties as so-called Ghamandia parties," said Congress leader Jairam Ramesh.

RAIN-LESS DAYS

195 taluks drought-hit, North Karnataka is worst-affected: Govt

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THE state government on Thursday officially declared 195 out of 237 taluks in Karnataka as drought-hit. While 161 taluks are found to be severely drought-hit, 34 will come under drought-hit taluks for next six months.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Thursday said the state government will now submit a memorandum to the Centre seeking funds for drought relief.

The declaration of 195 taluks as drought-hit was based on surveys and reports in these taluks, he said. The guidelines to the Deputy Commissioners for taking up drought relief works will be issued as per the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) and State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) norms.

The revenue department issued a Government Order late Wednesday night, which stated that drought declaration was done based on the DCs' reports after completing ground-truth-finding surveys. Of the 195 taluks declared as drought-hit, a majority are in North Karnataka, with Belagavi having the highest at 13, followed by Vijayapura (12), and Kalaburagi (11). Also, there are a good number of taluks from the Old Mysuru region and Central Karnataka. Among the lowest are Udupi and Dakshina Kannada districts with two each, and Bidar and Chamarajanagar with three each. P4

'Review CWRC order'

DyCM DK Shivakumar has appealed to Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat to ask the Cauvery Water Management Authority to consider Karnataka's pleadings and review the decision of Cauvery Water Regulation Committee. P4

IS terror accused arrives from Kenya, arrested

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Delhi/Shivamogga

SHIVAMOGGA-based IS terror accused Arafath Ali was nabbed by National Investigation Agency (NIA) at Delhi airport on his arrival from Nairobi, Kenya, on Thursday.

An NIA press release said Ali was taken into custody when he landed at Delhi airport. It was a major breakthrough for the agency to unearth and foil the conspiracy of foreign-based modules of IS (Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant) to carry out acts of terror in India. Since 2020, Ali had been absconding and was accused of indulging in IS propaganda and planning terrorist acts. He had since been operating from abroad to promote IS' anti-India terror agenda. NIA investigations revealed that Ali, a resident of Shivamogga district, was actively involved in the identification, radicalisation and recruitment of gullible Muslim youth into the IS fold, while working from abroad, the release said.

As part of the Shivamogga terror conspiracy case, accused Mohamed Shariq had been looking for ways to plant a pressure cooker IED at Kadri Manjunatha temple in Mangaluru, when the IED exploded accidentally in an autorickshaw. Ali had been in touch with the other accused in the case and was actively involved in planning and executing the conspiracy.

According to NIA, Ali was also responsible for the Mangaluru graffiti cases of 2020, when on his directions, two other accused Mohamed Shariq and Maaz Muneer Ahmed had written, 'Don't force us to invite Lashkar-e-Taiba and Taliban to deal with Sanghis and Manuvadis' and '#Lashkar Zindabad' on the walls.

SP Mithunkumar stated, "Arafath Ali hails from Thirthahalli taluk of Shivamogga district and left his hometown more than three years ago."

Sources said Ali's name was linked to the IED pressure cooker blast in Mangaluru, and cases were registered against him with Mangaluru and Bengaluru police.

NIA RAIDS SUSPECT'S HOUSE IN YADGIR DIST

An NIA team from Ranchi raided the house of one Khalid Ahmed (22) at Guttipet in Shahapur town of Yadgir district on Thursday morning, on suspicion of his links with suspected ISIS terrorist Faizan, who was arrested by the Ranchi police in July this year. P4

EXPRESS READ

Plan to make NavIC mandatory for automotive sector

NEW DELHI: The Union Government is planning to mandate India-made NavIC system in the future for the automotive industry, said Minister of State for Electronics and IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar on Thursday. P13

WITH THIS ISSUE

CIT'S BEST WEEKEND GUIDE INDULGE 42 PAGES, INCLUDING 24-PAGE INDULGE (TABLOID)

FINDERS CAN'T BE KEEPERS

Bank staff pockets ₹94L left on his scooter, jailed

PRAVEEN KUMAR @ Bengaluru

A 25-year-old credit card facilities manager at a private bank in Nagarbhavi, S Varun Gowda, has learnt the hard way that finders cannot always be keepers. Instead, following the 'finders-keepers' belief has landed him in Parappana Agrahara Central Prison. It took six days for him to learn that lesson.

On the morning of September 6, Varun found a carton with cash of Rs 94 lakh in denominations of Rs 500 on his scooter seat outside his bank, and believing it to be an act of Providence giving him such a huge fortune, took it home. Overwhelmed by the sudden wealth in his possession, he even made an initial advance of Rs 5,000 to buy a second-hand SUV, despite his mother insisting that he report his find to the police.

On the night of September 12, Chandra Layout police were at his doorstep, having checked about 300 pieces of footage from CCTV cameras near Varun's bank in Nagarbhavi till his residence in Kalappa Block in Girinagar. On confessing that he had brought the carton filled with Rs 94 lakh in cash home, he was arrested and booked for theft under Section 379 of the Indian Penal Code.

The Chandra Layout police said that at about 11.45 am on September 6, when Varun left his bank for an errand, he found the carton filled with cash on his scooter seat. A few moments earlier, 28-year-old businessman Pramod Swamy had left his residence opposite the bank, carrying the carton with the cash to take it to a friend's office and then to a legal consultant.

Pramod and his air-hostess wife had planned to buy a site, and the money was part of the transaction. As he reached his car parked outside his house, he decided to check on the documents and absentmindedly placed the carton on the seat of the nearest two-wheeler, which happened to be Varun's. After checking the documents, Pramod sat in his car and then drove away, leaving the carton with the cash behind. P3

COMBATING FAKE NEWS

Govt rolls out norms for fact-check unit

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THE state government on Thursday announced the framework for a fact-checking unit, which is proposed to be set up to tackle fake news and misinformation. In cases of misinformation, disinformation and malinformation (MDM), the government will initiate legal action under the provisions of the Information Technology Act, IPC, or Disaster Management Act, 2005.

IT-BT Minister Priyank Kharge said the exercise will never be personal or political, but purely in public interest. "We are not here to control or regulate anybody. We have no intention to curtail freedom of speech of any individuals or press," Kharge clarified, substantiating the government's move to set up the fact-checking unit by referring to a statement of the Chief Justice of India and a social media post from the Prime Minister's Office, which stressed the need to tackle MDM.

Further, Kharge alleged that a few political parties and organisations were exploiting social media to spread misinformation for their gains. "It is essential to reduce the effect of fake news and misinformation on society," he added.

Stating that the fact-checking unit would be made functional very soon, the minister shared the details of the proposed composition of the fact-checking unit, which comprises an Oversight Committee, Review Single Point of Contact (SPOC), and Nodal Officers.

Noting that there would be complete transparency in the process, the minister said there would be a set of guiding principles which include being apolitical and unbiased. "Fact-checking will be run on content in Kannada, English and other regional languages. The teams will rely on primary sources available and disclose all sources referred," he said. P5